

Drought Task Force Meeting

[www.drought.sd.gov](http://www.drought.sd.gov)

Monday, August 20, 2012

2-3 pm CDT

State Emergency Operations Center Amphitheater

In attendance:

Jon Farris, SDDA	Jay Esperance, WFS
Mark Rath, SDDENR	Jamie Crew, SDDA
Terry Woster, SDDPS	Katie Konda, SDDA
Doug Hinkle, FMO	Darren Clabbo, WFS fire meteorologist
Jason Bauder, SDDPS-OEM	Jeff Zimprich, USDA-NRCS
Emmett Keyser, GF&P	Dennis Today, State Climatologist
Aaron Jordan, NG	Steve Harding, Dept. of Military
Kristi Turman, OEM	Paul Merriman, FMO

Climatology update:

Dennis Today reported there has not been much of a change at all in the last week other than the temperatures have been running 5 to 10 degrees cooler than normal for the last two weeks statewide. The 8 to 14 day outlook shows the pattern shifting to a Canadian flow of air which brings cooler temperatures, but will also remain without precipitation. The 30 day outlook calls for warmer than average temperatures with below average rainfall. The 3 month outlook shows a transition to a weak El Nino pattern which brings warmer than average temperatures and there is no definite forecast on rainfall at this point.

Darren Clabo reported that the fuels right now are very dry and the fire condition is very high. Any fuel that had any moisture up to this point is beginning to dry out because we are moving into fall.

FSA report:

No report from the FSA this week.

SDDA report:

Jon Farris reported that Motor Carrier is going to allow the transportation of hay up to 15 feet high. The previous height allowed was 14 feet, 3 inches. The 15 foot height is in line with surrounding states. The fee for a permit is waived; however, the permit itself is still required so Motor Carrier can ensure everyone knows the rules for hay hauling and that the route they are driving will not hit a bridge overpass. Additionally, the hauling can take place 2 hours before sunrise and 2 hours after sunset. A press release will be going out about all these changes.

Jamie Crew reported any SD livestock owner in the need of hay because they have been impacted by a wildfire can apply with the Dept. of Ag for free donated hay from a program called CRP mid-term hay

management program. Currently there are 400 bales that have been donated to the program. The application can be found on the drought task force website under the Dept. of Ag.

**NRCS report:**

Jeff Zimprich reported the sign-up for the water program has ended. They had approximately 60 applications for funding they are reviewing. NRCS has requested an additional \$220,000 from the federal government because they fell then they would have enough funds for the amount of applications they received.

**DENR report:**

Mark Rath reported there have been 15 irrigators on the Jim River that have been granted an extension on water rights until August 26<sup>th</sup> at which time they will no longer be needing water to irrigate their crops. There may be a couple of golf courses that get extended past this deadline.

**Wildfire report:**

Jay Esperance reported on the meeting they had in Yankton County regarding critical fire areas the local officials were concerned about. The locals were explained they had access to additional resources through the State if they were needed and how to order them.

Discussions are still occurring on the possible Red Zone determination for Fall River County.

The Black Hills counties are considering lifting the fire ban for fire pits in campgrounds only; however, this is just initial discussions, with more to occur this week in order to come to a final determination.

**Other agency reports:**

GF&P: Emmett Keyser reported the Dept. of GF&P has a program to help producers construct protective fences around hay and feed supplies to ensure wildlife does not eat or damage these valuable livestock feed resources. GF&P will put out a press release about this program and how producers can get more information and /or apply.

The Task Force has agreed that a meeting once a week will be sufficient since the drought is not rapidly becoming worse. **The next Drought Task Force meeting will be held Tuesday, September 4, 2012, from 2-3 pm in the State EOC, Classroom E.**